

**ABSTRACT**

**FOLDING INTERLEAVER**

An interleaver has a birefringent element assembly and a reflector configured so as to direct light from the birefringent element assembly back into and through birefringent element assembly. The birefringent element assembly has at least one birefringent element. Directing light from the birefringent element assembly back through the birefringent element assembly enhances transmission characteristics and/or mitigates dispersion.

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